

We claim:

1. A method for selecting coating formulations for a multi-layer coating for repair purposes, the multi-layer coating comprising a primer applied on a substrate, at least one base or top coat and, optionally, a clear coat, the method comprising the following steps:
  - providing one or more databases of colorimetric data relating to a set of formulations and/or relating to constituents for a primer and base or top coat layers;
  - entering the colorimetric data of an object to be repaired into a computer having access to said database;
  - determining the formulation of the primer and of other layers of the multi-layer coating with the aid of the database, in such a way that the resulting colour of the multi-layer coating to be applied matches the colour of the object to be repaired using the lowest possible amount of coating material.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the formulation is determined by selecting from a given set of predetermined formulations.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the formulation is determined by calculating from a set of data of available constituents, e.g., K and S values.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein a primer is selected or calculated which closely matches the colour of the object to be repaired.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the colorimetric data of the object to be repaired are measured from several, preferably three or more, angles and in that the database comprises data relating to the colorimetric data of the composition to be selected or determined at these angles.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein a primer formulation admixed with top or base coat toners is selected or calculated.
- 5 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the colorimetric data in the database comprises  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  parameters according to the CIE Lab system.